

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 13. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 13-22 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 6, 13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fostick et al (Pub # US 2003/0083934A1) in view of Sapp (Pub# US 2003/0009403A1). The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 13 to more clearly define the intended scope of the claimed invention and distinguish the present invention from Fostick and Sapp. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 13 now recite that a value of the sequence of voucher records is determined for the sequence of voucher records and converted from a non-monetary value into a specific rate or interval associated with the identified services. The present application discloses a method and system for applying vouchers that may not be valued in monetary terms. A subscriber is provided with a "flexible voucher list" (FVL) containing records; each record comprising an ID and a list of vouchers. The vouchers associated with each FVL record. A value is determined for each voucher which is then converted into a specific rate or interval associated with the identified services, thereby providing a way for automatically redeeming the vouchers for specified services.

Fostick discloses a system for providing voice vouchers such that the content and authentication data of a voucher may be received and redeemed using a standard mobile communications device. In the Detailed Action, Fostick is cited for creating a "flexible voucher list" that comprises voucher records that further comprise a quantity of vouchers with voucher type identification parameters. The cited portions (paragraphs 0037 and 0051) of the Fostick discloses voucher creators using an API for creating vouchers using external applications which are then stored in a database or table in the

system; each voucher having an identity, the service it represents, etc. The vouchers are distributed by voice mail (paragraph 0052) messages that include a link to the voucher. Also a handset or any communications device is disclosed as being able to receive and access the vouchers. The Applicant respectfully submits Fostick does not teach or suggest determining a value for the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service.

Sapp discloses a system and method for providing enhanced forms of traditional financial instruments with added perquisites in addition to the normal financial benefits normally associated with the traditional financial instruments. In the Detailed Action, the Examiner cites Sapp for disclosing that each voucher record in the FVL utilizes a nonspecific identifier adaptable for identifying any service. Additionally, the Examiner stated that the enhanced financial instrument has universal and unlimited applications to any enterprise or entity and for any products or services that can be conferred on the purchases of the instrument in addition to those financial benefits normally associated with a corresponding traditional type of instrument (paragraph 89). However, Sapp does not teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service.

The Applicant respectfully submits that both Fostick and Sapp lack the limitation of determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service. Claim 6 depends from amended claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claim 18 depends from amended claim 13 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1, 6, 13, and 18 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fostick et al (Pub # US 2003/0083934A1) in view of Sapp (Pub# US 2003/0009403A1) and in further view of Whale (Pub # US 2003/0046171A1). The Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 13 to more clearly define the intended scope of the claimed invention and distinguish the present invention from

Fostick, Sapp, and Whale. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 13 now recite that a value of the sequence of voucher records is determined for the sequence of voucher records and converted from a non-monetary value into a specific rate or interval associated with the identified services. The present application discloses a method and system for applying vouchers that may not be valued in monetary terms. A subscriber is provided with a "flexible voucher list" (FVL) containing records; each record comprising an ID and a list of vouchers. The vouchers associated with each FVL record. A value is determined for each voucher which is then converted into a specific rate or interval associated with the identified services, thereby providing a way for automatically redeeming the vouchers for specified services.

As discussed above, neither Fostick nor Sapp teach or suggest of determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service. Whale discloses a system and method for providing purchase incentives to printing device replaceable components customers, the purchase incentives being based on a printing device usage rate for the customer. Whale is cited for teaching the creation of one or more rating records in a rating structure for storage of a fee measure in units to be charged for service usage. However, Whale also fails to teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claims 14 and 15 depend from amended claim 13 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fostick et al (Pub # US 2003/0083934A1) in view of Sapp (Pub# US 2003/0009403A1) in view of Whale (Pub # US 2003/0046171A1) and in further view of Ahola et al (WO 9918713). The Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 13

to more clearly define the intended scope of the claimed invention and distinguish the present invention from Fostick, Sapp, Whale, and Ahola. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 13 now recite that a value of the sequence of voucher records is determined for the sequence of voucher records and converted from a non-monetary value into a specific rate or interval associated with the identified services.

Fostick, Whale, and Sapp do not teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service. Ahola is cited for disclosing receiving an incoming charging request from a service element. However, Ahola does not teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service.

Claim 4 depends from amended claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claim 16 depends from amended claim 13 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of claims 4 and 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 8-9, 17 and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fostick et al (Pub # US 2003/0083934A1) in view of Sapp (Pub# US 2003/0009403A1) in view of Whale (Pub # US 2003/0046171A1) and in further view of Rand, et al (WO 0139092). The Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 13 to more clearly define the intended scope of the claimed invention and distinguish the present invention from Fostick, Sapp, Whale, and Rand. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Fostick, Whale, and Sapp do not teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service. Rand is cited for disclosing rating records having a discount percentage value that fixes the maximum percentage of the service usage that is payable using the vouchers for a particular service that can be paid using the vouchers. However, Rand

does not teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service.

Claims 5, 8, and 9 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claims 17, 20, and 21 depend from amended claim 13 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of claims 5, 8-9, 17 and 20-21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fostick et al (Pub # US 2003/0083934A1) in view of Sapp (Pub# US 2003/0009403A1) and in further view of Ahola et al (WO 9918713). As discussed above, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 13 to more clearly define the intended scope of the claimed invention and distinguish the present invention from Fostick and Sapp. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Neither Sapp nor Ahola teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service. Claim 7 depends from amended claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claim 19 depends from amended claim 13 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of claims 7 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fostick et al (Pub # US 2003/0083934A1) in view of Sapp (Pub# US 2003/0009403A1) and in further view of Campbell (Pub # US 2003/0125011A1). The Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 13 to more clearly define the intended scope of the claimed invention and distinguish the present invention from Fostick, Sapp, and Campbell. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Fostick and Sapp do not teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service.

Campbell is cited for disclosing that the quantity of unit is specified as time of service usage. However, Campbell does not teach or suggest determining a value of the vouchers and converting the value to a rate or interval associated with the specified service.

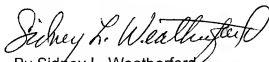
Claim 10 depends from amended claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claim 22 depends from amended claim 13 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of claims 10 and 22 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,


By Sidney L. Weatherford
Registration No. 45,602

Date: February 22, 2007

Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive, M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, Texas 75024

(972) 583-8656
sidney.weatherford@ericsson.com